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E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: PREL, PGOV, PINS, AF, IN, UR, PK

SUBJECT: ZIA'S INTERVIEW - NO SURPRISES

1. (U) SUMMARY: PAKISTANI NEWSPAPERS GAVE  
PRESIDENT ZIA'S DECEMBER 7 INTERVIEW IN THE LONDON  
NEWSPAPER "THE INDEPENDENT" EXTENSIVE PLAY. COVERAGE  
HIGHLIGHTED HIS QUALIFIED PROMISE TO STEPDOWN IN  
1990. ZIA ALSO WAS GUARDEDLY OPTIMISTIC THAT A  
BREAKTHROUGH ON AFGHANISTAN COULD COME AS EARLY AS  
FEBRUARY BUT REITERATED INSISTENCE UPON FULL TROOP  
WITHDRAWALS WITHIN "A FEW MONTHS". HE DECLARED  
PAKISTAN IS ON A "PEACE OFFENSIVE" WITH INDIA ADDING  
IT WOULD NOT BE PROVOKED BY INDIAN MILITARY MANEUVERS.

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2. (U) THE PRESIDENT CONCENTRATED ON DOMESTIC  
POLITICS. HE REAFFIRMED HIS DEDICATION TO SEE  
PAKISTAN'S REVIVED DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS SUCCEED.  
DECLARED HE BACKS THE PAKISTAN MUSLIM LEAGUE, DENIED  
STRAINS IN HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH PRIME MINISTER

JUNEJO, AND OFFERED AN OLIVE BRANCH TO BENAZIR BHUTTO  
-- IF SHE PLAYS BY THE RULES. ZIA ALSO INSISTED AN  
ISLAMIC LEGAL SYSTEM IS CONSISTENT WITE PARLIAMENTARY  
GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY.

3. (U) THERE FOLLOW. INTERVIEW HIGHLIGHTS. WE WILL  
FOUCH COMPLETE TEXT CARRIED IN DECEMBER 13 EDITION OF  
THE LAHORE ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY "THE NATION" TO  
LESK.

1. EXTERNAL RELATIONS

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY EC DATE 7/29

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## AFGHANISTAN:

-- "WE MAY PULL A MIRACLE OF THE 20TH CENTURY ON FEBRUARY 11 BY AGREEING AT GENEVA FOR THE PRACTICAL WITHDRAWAL OF THE RUSSIAN TROOPS AND EVENTUALLY A SETTLEMENT....WE HAVE NOT GIVEN ANY EXACT TIME FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE WITHDRAWAL BUT WE SAY THAT IT SHOULD NOT TAKE YEARS. IT SHOULD TAKE WEEKS AT THE MOST. WE COULD BE SATISFIED IF IT TOOK PLACE IN A FEW MONTHS."

## INDIA:

-- MANEUVERS. "THIS IS AN ASSEMBLY OF TROOPS --OR AN EXERCISE...ROUGHLY 14 DIVISIONS...AS MUCH AS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
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PAKISTAN'S TOTAL ARMY...BUT IT IS AN EXERCISE AND PAKISTAN SHOULD NOT GET WORRIED...PERHAPS...THE PEOPLE OF PAKISTAN SHOULD KNOW A LITTLE BIT MORE DETAILS BECAUSE THEY ARE APPREHENDING THAT IT MIGHT LEAD TO WAR...WHICH IT WILL NOT." THE MANEUVERS HAVE NOTHING TO DO...WITH THE SITUATION IN PUNJAB BECAUSE THEY ALREADY HAVE LARGE NUMBERS OF TROOPS INSIDE PUNJAB...I WILL NOT ATTRIBUTE ANY ULTERIOR MOTIVES ON THE ASSEMBLY OF TROOPS TO THE SITUATION IN PUNJAB."  
-- RELATIONS. "WE ARE ON A PEACE OFFENSIVE WITH INDIA. WE REFUSE TO BE PROVOKED -- AND WE MUST BREAK

THE ICE ONE DAY....WE THOUGHT WE WERE SUCCESSFUL IN OUR PEACE OFFENSIVE BUT THEN ALL OF A SUDDEN, AFTER 17TH OF DECEMBER (1985) SOMETHING HAPPENED....RAJIV THAT I MET (THEN) IS NOT THE SAME RAJIV WHICH (SIC) IS TALKING TODAY....I THINK HE IS A VERY PRAGMATIC MAN. WE COULD DO BUSINESS...WE INTEND DOING THIS AND WE HOPE ONE DAY, WE WILL BE ABLE TO RESOLVE OUR PROBLEMS.

## II. DOMESTIC POLITICS

## OVERSEEING THE RETURN TO DEMOCRACY:

-- "I AM THE MAN WHO WAS AT THE HELM OF AFFAIRS FOR EIGHT YEARS, VOLUNTARILY, WITHOUT ANY COMPULSION. I AND MY COLLEAGUES DECIDED TO SWITCH OVER TO INTRODUCE...A DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM WITH A CIVILIAN HEAD  
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E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: PREL, PGOV, PINS, AF, IN, UR, PK

SUBJECT: ZIA'S INTERVIEW - NO SURPRISES

OF GOVERNMENT AND A CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT....I NO  
LONGER AM THE PERSON I WAS BEFORE MARCH 23 (1985).

NOW, I AM A PART OF THE MACHINERY...A PART OF A  
SYSTEM, WHICH MUST WORK ACCORDING TO SOME DEFINED  
RULES AND NORMS AND PROCEDURES AND THEREFORE MY  
PERSONAL VIEWS DO NOT COUNT TO THAT EXTENT.

-- THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE TO A STRONG, CIVILIAN  
DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT....THE POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS  
HAVE NOT DEVELOPED IN PAKISTAN AND THEREFORE IT IS MY  
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EFFORT, IT IS THE EFFORT OF THE PRIME MINISTER TO LET  
THE INSTITUTIONS DEVELOP. THE INSTITUTIONS ARE: THE  
POLITICAL PARTIES, THE PARLIAMENT, THE SENATE, THE  
RESPONSIBILITY OF THE MEDIA, THE GOVERNMENTAL  
OFFICES, THE BUREAUCRACY.

A BRIDGE BETWEEN THE ARMY AND THE CIVILIANS:

-- "Q. WHAT ABOUT YOUR POSITION AS CHIEF OF THE  
ARMY STAFF? ARE YOU LIKELY TO HOLD THAT UNTIL 1990?"

-- "A. IT IS DIFFICULT TO GIVE THE TIME  
FRAME....I HAVE KEPT THIS (POST) PURELY AS A BRIDGE.  
AFTER ALL WHY HAS THE POLITICAL SYSTEM FAILED IN  
PAKISTAN? IT IS AS THE RESULT OF THE UNSUCCESSFUL  
POLICIES OF THE POLITICIANS. ON THE OTHER HAND THERE  
HAVE BEEN VERY SINCERE EFFORTS ON THE PART OF THE

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MILITARY TO SAFEGUARD THE SECURITY AND INTEGRITY OF THE COUNTRY. AS A RESULT OF THESE TWO THINGS...INTERVENTION HAD TAKEN PLACE....NOW, I HOPE THE POLITICIANS WILL DO THEIR JOB. AS FAR AS THE MILITARY IS CONCERNED...I THOUGHT I COULD FOR SOME TIME ACT AS A BRIDGE, SO THAT THE MILITARY SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE TO THE POLITICALLY ELECTED GOVERNMENT....WHEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PARTIES ARE STABLE THEN I CAN TAKE OFF MY UNIFORM.

- -- IF GOD WILLING I LIVE BEYOND 1990, THEN FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES AS THE THINGS STAND TODAY, I SHOULD BE CONCENTRATING MORE ON GOLF THAN POLITICS." WORKING WITH PRIME MINISTER JUNEJO:

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- -- "ALL THE DECISIONS ARE TAKEN BY THE PRIME MINISTER AND HIS GOVERNMENT AND I DON'T COME INTO THE PICTURE. YES, SOMETIMES, WE CONSULT EACH OTHER. WE DISCUSS THINGS, AND EVENTUALLY THE DECISION IS TAKEN BY THE PRIME MINISTER. I DON'T SEE ANY REASON WHY THERE SHOULD BE ANY DOUBTS....INDIVIDUALS...WANT TO CREATE FRICTION....SO THE OPPOSITION CAN MAKE THE BETTER OF IT. IT IS MERE POLITICS AND NOT REALITY."

THE MUSLIM LEAGUE:

- -- "THERE IS AN URGENT NEED OF LOOKING INTO THE STRENGTHENING OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES....I AM NOT A MEMBER OF (THE MUSLIM LEAGUE). I AM NOT ITS HEAD BUT THEY HAVE MY WHOLE HEARTED SUPPORT." THE PPP:

- -- "ONE MUST NEVER UNDER-ESTIMATE THE OPPONENT. THE PPP....MUST NOT BE IGNORED....PEOPLE SHOULD ALSO CONSIDER WHAT IS GOOD FOR THE COUNTRY. THEY HAVE SEEN FIVE YEARS OF PPP RULE UNDER MISS BENAZIR'S FATHER....SO, PEOPLE SHOULD ALSO CHOOSE WHICH SORT OF GOVERNMENT THEY WOULD LIKE TO HAVE -- A NOBLE, GOOD AND AN HONEST ONE OR A BUNCH OF ROGUES AND FOLLOWERS OF MACHIAVELLIA (SIC)....FROM THAT POINT OF VIEW, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: PREL, PGOV, PINS, AF, IN, UR, PK

SUBJECT: ZIA'S INTERVIEW - NO SURPRISES

PEOPLE MUST BE CAREFUL....IF THE PEOPLE VOTE FOR THE  
PPP, WHO AM I TO CHECK....THAT IS WHY I SAID THAT I  
HOPE THE PEOPLE OF PAKISTAN WOULD BE A LITTLE MORE  
THOUGHTFUL IN SELECTING THE RIGHT REPRESENTATIVES AND  
GIVING THE SUPPORT TO THE RIGHT TYPE OF PARTY, WHICH  
CAN STRENGTHEN PAKISTAN AND NOT WEAKEN IT.

-- "Q. DO YOU THINK THE PPP WOULD CONTEST THE  
1990 ELECTIONS?"

-- "A. I THINK SO BUT THEY SHOULD BE VERY

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CAREFUL....THE LAW IS THAT ALL POLITICAL PARTIES MUST  
GET THEMSELVES REGISTERED....THE LAW MUST BE  
RESPECTED....IF THEY WANT TO PUT UP INDEPENDENT  
CANDIDATES THEY ARE MOST WELCOME....BECAUSE THE LAW  
FOR INDEPENDENTS IS MORE SEVERE THAN FOR THE  
PARTIES....BUT AS A PARTY THEY MUST GET THEMSELVES  
REGISTERED...AND I HOPE THIS LAW WILL REMAIN.

-- "Q. WOULD YOU CONSIDER THE PPP AS AN  
UN-ISLAMIC PARTY?"

-- "A. THE PPP'S STANCE IS MORE SECULAR, I  
WON'T SAY IT IS UN-ISLAMIC BECAUSE I HAVE NO BUSINESS  
TO SAY THAT BUT THE PPP'S STANCE IN THE DAYS OF MR.  
BHUTTO WAS MORE SECULAR.

BENAZIR:

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- -- "I HOLD NOTHING AGAINST MISS BENAZIR....(SHE) IS CAPABLE OF RAISING THE EMOTIONS OF THE PEOPLE....SHE SAYS, THAT WE SHOULD HAVE A POLICY OF PEACE WITH INDIA. SHE SAYS, OUR POLICY, THE GOVERNMENT POLICY ON AFGHANISTAN IS CORRECT. SHE SAYS, (THE) UNITED STATES IS A FRIEND OF PAKISTAN. SHE SAYS, OUR NUCLEAR POLICY IS CORRECT. THEN, WHAT IS WRONG WITH THE GOVERNMENT. BUT SHE SAYS THAT SHE SHOULD BE IN POWER AND NOT MR. JUNEJO....WOULD DO THE SAME BUT NOT LIKE MR. JUNEJO TO BE THE PRIME MINISTER....THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT SHE IS SAYING. THAT IS WHY SHE HAS LOST MOST OF (HER) CHARM....SHE WAS DEMANDING ELECTIONS BY AUTUMN, WE HAVE GONE THROUGH THE WINTER AS WELL....SHE HAS IN FACT BEEN TURNED

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DOWN....I HOPE SHE WILL BE MORE PRAGMATIC IN FUTURE."  
ISLAMIZATION AND DEMOCRACY:

- -- "IN MY OWN THINKING, WE SHOULD HAVE A MAJLIS-I-SHOORA BUT WE CAN'T HAVE ONE. ONE DAY PERHAPS, WE WILL GO A LITTLE CLOSER TO THE ISLAMIC FORM OF SYSTEM WHICH INCIDENTALLY DOES NOT DEBAR A PARLIAMENT."

- -- "ALL THOSE WHO ARE SAYING THAT THE FEDERAL SHARIAT COURT WILL BECOME SUPREME ARE TRYING TO CREATE UNNECESSARY CONFUSION....THERE IS NO CONFUSION

BECAUSE THE SHARIAT COURT WILL ONLY DECIDE WHAT IS ACCORDING TO ISLAM. THE REST OF THE PROBLEMS ARE TO BE RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENT. PARLIAMENT IS SUPREME FOR ALL WORLDLY LAWS AND THE SHARIAT COURT IS SUPREME TO ADJUDICATE OR TO DESCRIBE ALL THE LAWS OF QURAN AND SUNNAH.  
DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNMENT:

- -- Q. "PEOPLE SAY THAT CORRUPTION HAS INCREASED SINCE THE CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT HAS COME TO POWER. IS IT CORRECT OR NOT?"

- -- A. YES UNFORTUNATELY....THIS I AM TELLING YOU FROM EXPERIENCE THAT PEOPLE ALWAYS WANT A DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT NOT NECESSARILY A GOOD GOVERNMENT. SO, IN THE MILITARY, WE PROVIDED THEM A GOOD GOVERNMENT, BUT IT WAS NOT A DEMOCRATIC

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E.O. 12356: N/A

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GOVERNMENT, NOW THEY HAVE A DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT AND

IN A DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT...THERE IS A LOT OF

FREEDOM. SOMETIMES IT IS MISUSED....ELECTED

REPRESENTATIVES WANT TO ALLOW CERTAIN THINGS TO

HAPPEN, AS A RESULT OF WHICH CORRUPTION HAS,

INCREASED BUT THIS IS THE PRICE WE HAVE TO PAY....AS

SOON AS THE PEOPLE ARE AWARE OF THIS DISEASE, WHICH

THEY ARE, AS SOON AS THE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES FEEL

A LITTLE BIT MORE RESPONSIBLE, WHICH THEY WILL, AND

THEY FEEL MORE CONFIDENT ABOUT THE STRENGTH THAT THEY

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ENJOY, THESE THINGS WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE WEEDED

OUT....THIS IS NOT SOMETHING THAT WILL VANISH

TOMORROW.

4. (LOU) COMMENT: [REDACTED]

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